

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts
www.lwva.com

May 2019

Calendar

May	This is the time to renew your membership in the LWVA if you haven't yet done so. See page 11 for the renewal form. Thank you!
5/11 Saturday 1 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting/lunch at Summer Village on the Pond, a restaurant associated with Angela Olszewski's summer home in Westford. All members welcome. RSVP requested. Directions on page 5.
Friday-Saturday 6/7-6/8	LWVMA Convention 2019: Looking Back, Moving Forward at the Westford Regency Inn. The LWVA is sending three delegates, and others are welcome. Details on page 7.
Tuesday 6/11 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special Election on a debt exclusion to rebuild Arlington High School and on a Proposition 2 1/2 override to replenish the Town's stabilization fund.
Thursday 6/13 6 p.m.	LWVA Annual Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. The Annual Meeting Workbook will be sent to all members by May 30. All members, family, and friends are welcome. Details on page 3.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

Megan Lower, 102 Pleasant St. #2

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership AnnFitz@rcn.com

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor c.haase@comcast.net
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing mlreiners@gmail.com

Co-President's Message

The political scene in Arlington is quite busy. League members have put up signs announcing the Town Election, worked at the polls on election day, provided rides to the polls, and organized an introduction to Town Meeting. Many League members are participating in the debate at Town Meeting. The Board has voted to support Article 36, which would establish an Election Modernization Study Committee to comprehensively examine the Town's election practices, policies, and opportunities for improvement.

As a Town Meeting Member I participated in a tour of the Arlington High School. There is a lively debate raging as to whether to build anew or renovate/rebuild the high school. My first impression was the smell of bleach and then the smell of mold, thus the need for the bleach. I urge you to educate yourself before voting on June 11.

The date for the League's Annual Meeting is June 13. DeAnne Dupont, Co-Founder of Food Link, will be our speaker. Learn about the mission of this organization and how it has grown.

League members will be adopting support positions as the end product of our study of the Arlington Housing Authority (see page 5 for details). These support positions, if approved, will allow the League to lobby our elected officials on public housing issues both at the state and local levels.

Please come and enjoy the food and the conversation.

Carolyn Parsons

Absentee Ballots for the Town Election

By Nancy Gray

Some residents didn't receive their absentee ballots in the mail for the April 6 election. They thought they had properly applied for one to be sent and ticked the box, "All elections this year." That should get the resident a ballot in the mail for each election for this calendar year. Application must be made for each calendar year.

There is some question about how the system is working, so check that you do, indeed, get a ballot in the mail in sufficient time before the June 11 election.



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2018–2019

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	781-648-1019
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing, Voters Service Committee	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590
Susan Born, Voters Service Cmte	617-448-4179
Wendy Forgie, Voters Service Cmte	617-669-2052
Mel Goldsipe, Voters Service Cmte	781-325-2778
Paulette Schwartz, Voters Service Cmte	781-646-1722

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND LWV ARLINGTON'S
ANNUAL MEETING & PARTY**

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

MEREDITH ZONA'S HOME

1 ANDREWS WAY

APPETIZERS AT 6:00 P.M., DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL PROGRAM AND A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING

The guest speaker for our program will be DeAnne Dupont, co-founder of Food Link, an organization based in Arlington that collects high-quality fresh and prepared foods that would otherwise be wasted from local grocery and prepared food stores, and delivers them to over 30 social service agencies serving people in need in 14 Greater Boston communities. We invite you to come and learn more about this great organization.

Please RSVP by June 10 to Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753 or Meredith.Zona@stantec.com. Beverages will be provided. Please let Meredith know if you can bring a dish to share. If anyone needs a ride or would like to carpool, please call Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309.

Friends, neighbors, spouses, etc., are most welcome!

Directions to Meredith's House:

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd. at the Summer St. traffic light across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right onto Ridge St., then 1st left onto Cherokee Rd., 1st right onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st right onto Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is the tan-colored house directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. Come in through the garage if you prefer not to climb the stairs to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take a slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd., 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, 1st left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

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Update on the LWVA Housing Study

By Janice Bakey

The League of Women Voters of Arlington has been conducting a study of the Arlington Housing Authority to determine to what extent tenants are able to exercise their rights under Massachusetts and Federal law to participate in management and the setting of policy and procedures in governing their living space.

A team of LWVA volunteers has been monitoring the Tenant Association elections for some buildings for over 20 years and has observed AHA Board meetings for 5 years.

Representatives of the LWVA reviewed the minutes of the AHA Board Meetings and their notes from those meetings, gathered comments from tenants, and interviewed the following:

- A representative from the Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants
- The Town Manager
- The Chief of Police
- The Executive Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington
- Two Social Workers of the Council on Aging
- The Head of Fair and Affordable Housing
- The Director of the Council on Aging
- A Social Worker from Minuteman Senior Services
- The Chair of the AHA Board, who was accompanied by the Board Counsel

Each person was asked the same general questions, and follow-ups were directed at each organization's role in tenant rights. Meeting and interview notes are being reviewed and edited by members of the LWVA AHA Study Committee. Support positions are being developed for approval by the membership of the LWVA at our Annual Meeting.

Directions to Summer Village at the Pond in Westford

By Angela Olszewski

Each car will need to check in at the gatehouse. Please provide me with your name in advance if you plan to attend so I can put you on my guest list.

For GPS, use 6 Summer Village Road. If not recognized, use Wymans Beach Road.

This is how I get there from the Heights:

1. Take the Middlesex Turnpike into Burlington
2. Take Route 3 north (this is the 128 south/Rt 3 north on ramp after you go under 128)
3. Take exit 33, Rt 40 – Westford/N Chelmsford; bear right onto Rt 40
4. Continue on Rt 40 until you come to a yellow flashing light at the BP gas station. Take a right here onto Dunstable Road.
5. Continue on Dunstable Road until you see the American Legion on the left, then take the next right onto Summer Village Road.

Please note that the speed limit is 10 mph as you approach the gatehouse. Check in by giving my cottage address, 8 Farmhouse Row, and your name. You will be directed to either my cottage or guest parking. Call me on my cell, 781-640-8882 if you are parking at guest parking. I will come meet you.



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for its contribution to
our community**

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McKibben, Higginbotham to Speak at LWVMA Convention in June

From the State League

Have you made your plans to join us for Convention June 7 and 8?



Friday's program kicks off with a panel discussion on the promise and perils of election technology, featuring Charles Stewart from MIT, Michelle Tassinari from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office, and Dana Chisnell from Center for Civic Design. LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase will share her perspectives on the work of the national League. During a cocktail reception, League members can network and meet the candidates for the state Board. Bill McKibben, nationally known author, environmentalist, and activist, will keynote the banquet.

Saturday's session will include a review of the last two years of LWVMA activity and look forward to the next two years. A panel discussion with newly-elected legislators will include Sen. Becca Rausch, Rep. Tram Nguyen, Rep. Nika Elugardo, and Rep. Natalie Blais. Our lunch speaker, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African-American Studies and the chair of the Department of History at Harvard University. She received the 2014 National Humanities Medal for "illuminating the African-American journey."

On both days, Local League Showcases will give each local League and unit a chance to highlight their work with a one-minute presentation of an event or initiative from the past two years. This is a great opportunity to get new ideas by learning about the work of our fabulous local Leagues.

All League members are welcome and encouraged to participate in Convention for one or both days and pricing is available for several different options. Pricing is also available for the banquet only, and you can bring non-member guests to the banquet as well. Only official delegates from local Leagues and MAL units vote in the plenary sessions, but other League members are welcome as observers.

Rooms for Friday night are available at the Westford Regency for \$129 (plus tax), a special rate for LWVMA available until May 8. To receive our special rate, you must call 978-692-8200 and ask for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Convention rate. You will not receive this rate if you book directly on the hotel's website or a third-party website.

Editor's Note: The Arlington League is allocated three voting delegates, and we are sending Nancy Gray, Colleen Kirby, and Patti Muldoon. Any more members who'd like to come are encouraged to register using the link at the bottom of the web page <https://lwvma.org/convention-june-7-and-8-2019-in-westford/>, which has more information about the Convention.



Left: The pot-luck at the Legislators' Brunch.

Photo by Kathy Fennelly



Right: Angela Olszewski, Sen. Cindy Friedman, and Kim Siebert at the Brunch.

Photo by Kathy Fennelly

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Legislators Inform Voters at April 7 Brunch

By Kim Haase

Arlington's three state legislators described their activities this session and answered questions from a large audience on a beautiful spring day at Kathy and Paul Fennelly's home, after a sumptuous potluck brunch.

State Senator Cindy Friedman is Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Vice Chair of both the Senate and Joint Committees on Ways and Means, and a member of five other committees. This year, she said, it's "all health care all the time." This session they are trying to pass an omnibus bill covering access, costs, mental health parity, provider price variations, and pharmaceuticals' effect on health care costs. So far they have passed a ban on conversion therapy (which the Governor has since signed) and lifted the "cap on kids," which prohibited benefits for an additional child born while a family was receiving welfare benefits. Since the Brunch, the Governor vetoed the legislation, and the Legislature overrode the veto,

State Representative David Rogers said the legislators' goal is to do good things in Massachusetts to counter the bad things happening at the Federal level. He is Chair of the Cannabis Committee, noting that he is not in favor of cannabis consumption but is against its criminalization. There are fairness issues arising as cannabis becomes a big business in the state. He has also filed bills for a "civil Gideon," to require legal representation for indigent defendants in civil cases such as eviction; for electric buses; and for health care for undocumented immigrant children, among others.

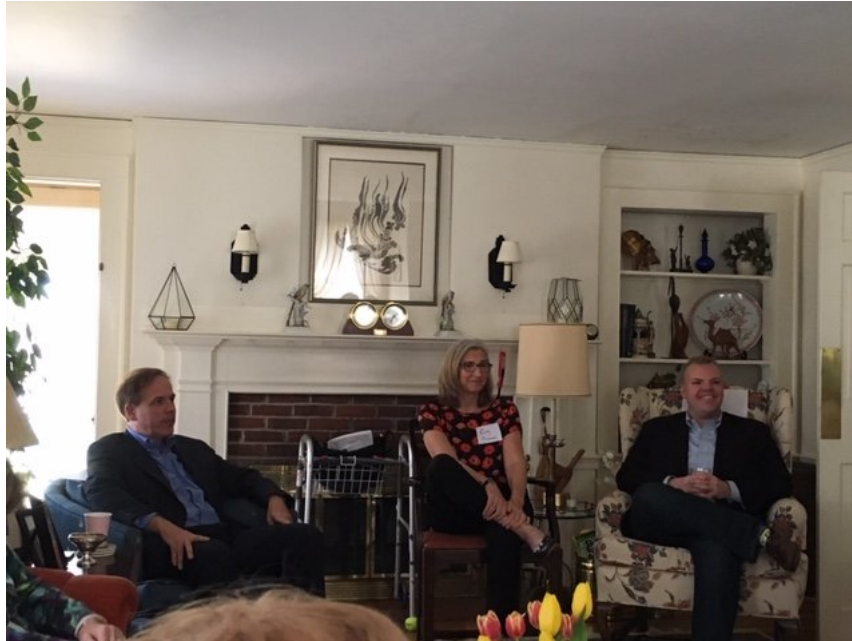
State Representative Sean Garballey, like his colleagues, is happy with their excellent working relationship. He is Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight and a member of five other committees, including the House and Joint Committees on Ways and Means. He reflected on legislative successes in the previous session, including criminal justice reform. He was also pleased that the tobacco bill banned the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies. He's currently focused on the budget and education funding, on a bill to get to 100% renewable energy in the state, and on a bill to allow students with autism and Down Syndrome to attend state colleges without having to pass the MCAS.

The legislators then answered questions on topics that included the following:

- Passing the Millionaires' Tax via the legislative route
- Cannabis revenues to date
- Extensions to opioid laws
- Medically assisted treatment for substance abuse disorders in corrections facilities
- Tenant representation on local housing authority boards
- Reducing bicycle fatalities
- Regulating use of biometric information
- Sexual harassment procedures in the legislature
- The 100% renewable energy bill's details and prospects
- Regulating campaign contributions from lobbyists

A question on why it takes so long to pass legislation sparked much discussion. The legislators emphasized that citizens should call or write their legislators, because public pressure makes things happen. Cindy noted that the process was not intended to be swift, because making law is a deliberative process. Dave noted that our legislature is much more productive than the federal one, whose main achievement is the big tax cut for the wealthy. Sean noted that three days notice of hearings is now required, so citizens can find out, attend them, and provide input.

Sean also provided some background on the review of the Foundation Budget and proposals for reform.



State Rep. Dave Rogers, State Sen. Cindy Friedman, and State Rep. Sean Garballey at the Legislators' Brunch April 7 hosted by Kathy and Paul Fennelly.

Photo by Colleen Kirby

State Sen. Cindy Friedman and Ed Schwartz.

Photo by Paulette Schwartz



State Rep. Dave Rogers, Janice Bakey, and State Rep. Sean Garballey.

Photo by Paulette Schwartz

Our fiscal year began April 1, so now is the time to renew!
Thank you for your support.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

Name _____ Precinct _____ Date _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

_____ Basic Membership Dues..... \$60
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$60 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- ___ Join the Board. Position: _____
- ___ Action: phone calls ___ letters ___
- ___ Bulletin: mailing ___ soliciting ads ___
- ___ Membership
- ___ Nominating Committee
- ___ Publicity Writer
- ___ Voter Service: Rides to the polls ___
- ___ Candidates Night
- ___ Voters' Guide
- ___ Attend State League's Phonathon
- ___ Be a discussion leader at local meetings
- ___ Fundraising activities
- ___ Offer meeting refreshments
- ___ Post fliers and deliver brochures
- ___ Host a meeting in my home
- ___ Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- ___ Congress/Presidency/Election Process
- ___ Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
- ___ Education/Child Care
- ___ Environment/Recycling
- ___ Health Care
- ___ Justice/Courts/Prisons
- ___ Land Use
- ___ Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
- ___ Transportation/Urban Policy
- ___ Voting Rights
- ___ Warrant Articles Review
- ___ Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs
- ___ Women's Issues
- ___ Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

OBSERVE AT

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*

- ___ Selectmen (Mondays)
- ___ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
- ___ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- ___ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- ___ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- ___ Computer database
- ___ Graphic design
- ___ Desktop publishing
- ___ Web site maintenance
- ___ Membership development
- ___ Moderating meetings
- ___ Fundraising
- ___ Writing articles
- ___ Other

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Thanks to Town Election Drivers!

We had two requests for rides. Thanks to Ann Fitzgerald, Margaret Ferris, Janice Bakey, and Colleen Kirby for volunteering to drive.

Voter turnout in Arlington was 19.9%, which was 4% higher than last year and the highest for a Town Election since 2014. Your vote counted for you and 4 of your neighbors.

— *Phyllis Maddox*

MAY 2019

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476

